

# PEARL SHELL DIVERS

# "I FOUND THE MONITOR" By ROBERT MARX

A Magazine Devoted to the Underwater World





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# The SKIN DIVER

P.O. Box 128, Lynwood, California, Telephone LOrain 7-1367

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No. 9

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JIM AUXIER, Editor

CHUCK BLAKESLEE, Adv. Mgr.-Assoc. Editor

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TOP RIGHT—Here's one of the skin diving attractions on Wake Island. Pan American Airways stewardess Marion Kindig, of San Francisco, who goes in for a bit of skin diving during her stopovers on the tiny Pacific atoll. Behind her is the wreck of the Suwa Maru, a Japanese ship beached during the recent war, which is a fovorite hunting ground of the islands small transit population.—Photo by Robin Kinkead. LOWER RIGHT—The buddy system of diving is okay with fish-man Dick Ferg when a mermid like Din Young qualifies as a companion Scuba expert. Both were on the demonstration team from the I.I. Delphins Club that staged a show of underwater techniques in the pool of the St. George Hotel, Brooklyn, N.. Y, recently under the sponsorship of Abraham & Straus.

FLASH!!—International Underwater Spearfishing Championships—August 14, 1955—Mallorca, Spain... Individual winners were Jannuzzi (Italy), Buffaz (France) and Falco (Italy)... Complete story and pictures of this event will appear next month.

#### SEPTEMBER COVER PAINTING

By JOHN STEEL

Read the exciting account of the native skin divers and their trade in Richard Crosby's "Pearl Shell Divers of Takume" on Page 14. This cover masterpiece, created for "Skin Diver" readers, depicts the undersea beauty of the South Pacific in true color and scope.





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# LETTERS

# that you should read

#### Technical Club . . .

Dear Sir:

As secretary of the "Seafarers" I was delighted to find an article from our publication in your latest issue on page 17. This one, as all the other previously printed ones, was written by our president, Prof. R. Stuart Mackay. He suggested that you might be interested in a follow-up to the bit on "Underwater Communication" which appeared some months ago, and I am enclosing it.

Through Dr. Mackay's lively interest, the "Seafarers" became and have remained an active and amusing group, with frequent gatherings besides the formal monthly dinner meetings, pool practice dives once a week (a strongly recommended idea to train novices and perfect techniques of more experienced members). We also have a refrigerated salt water aquarium stocked with specimens gathered on our outings. Much helpful information has been presented to the club, perhaps because many of the members have had a technical education, being physicists, electronics engineers, doctors, biophysicists, physiologists, etc. They have made skin diving a science as well as a sport.

Sincerely,

Donna Matthews San Francisco

#### Australian Librarian . . .

Dear Jim:

As honorary librarian of the U.S.F.A. of N.S.W., I would like to send greetings to all the skin diving fraternity in the U.S. Also I would like to thank you on behalf of the club for the copies of Skin Diver that you have so generously sent us. I have faithfully kept all copies of same and have had them bound and made available to all members who are not lucky enough to be subscribers. If subscription to your magazine was an easier matter I'm sure you would have a wide market here. Any ideas on this subject would be welcome. Perhaps I could act as an agent for same.

Since our club's inception in 1948 we have built up a large and comprehensive library which is a most popular adjunct to our club, providing plenty of good reading for all members and a small income to the club funds. I would be delighted to exchange information with librarians from any of the clubs in the U.S. and if libraries do not exist there we strongly urge the formation of same. The sport is now providing an excellent research medium, not only for its own history, etc., but for fish, shells, corals, wrecks and so on.

Also if anyone could supply us with information on where to purchase copies of Guy Gilpatrick's "The Compleat Goggler" we would be extremely grateful. It is unprocurable out here and of course is a "must" on any fishing library shelf.

Once again thanking you for your magazine.

Yours,

Godfrey L. Gapp New South Wales

#### Umi Neko & Sazae . . .

Dear lim:

In the July issue of the Skin Diver, Bob Bourgault of the Deep Sea Wanderers requested help in classifying the "Something in the general form of a Sea Cucumber" having the consistency of an octopus and no visible means of locomotion such as fins, tentacles, etc., and when disturbed emitted a red fluid.

The Japanese call it an "Umi Neko" or Sea Kitten. It is a member of the snail family and moves on a "foot" on the underside of its body. This foot can be eaten when boiled and prepared with Oshoyu.

Another tasty meal is a shell-fish called "Sazae." For those of you who are skin diving in Japan, I encourage you to get some of your Japanese friends to show you how to prepare the many wonderful dishes that come from the sea.

Milt Shares Japan

#### Firm Changes Name . . .

Gentlemen:

Please be notified that, effective August 1, 1955, the Dolphin Manufacturing Company, located at 9642 E. Artesia Blvd., Bellflower, California, will be known as Dolphin Enterprises. R. M. Shannon will be the sole owner. Retail sales store, show room, and factory will still be located at 9642 East Artesia Blvd., and the mailing address will be P. O. Box 744, Bellflower California.

All orders and payments made after August 1, 1955 are to be made to Dolphin Enterprises, or R. M. Shannon.

Very truly yours,

R. M. Shannon

#### Cold Water Decompression . . .

Dear Jim

Reference is made to "Wisconsin Conservation Trout Survey Drive" by Lee E. Gleason (January, 1955, Skin Diver) and his statement on decompressing, wondering if the Navy Tables are accurate.

We found in diving in a river last winter, looking for three bodies for three months, that the depth ranged from twelve feet to one hundred eighty-five feet. The temperature was 38° at the warmest spot. My companion and I were taking turns searching under a bridge where it was narrow and deep. The water dropped from forty-five feet to seventy feet. Counting total time going down, searching, coming up, decompressing, we were down just under forty-five minutes.

After we were dressed my companion had a slight case of the bends. We checked with a commercial diver who is an honorary member of our club and he informed us the colder the water the more decompression time is needed besides what is called for in the naval

Charlie S. Solomon Oregon Skin Divers

#### In Short, Mr. Editor . . .

Dear Sir:

Getting a bit sick of all the junk you jokers have been printing about surplus demand regulator lungs. Figured 'twas about time to give out the word... Due to the stuff in your mag, and others ... plus propaganda put out by diving store hacks, a group of three of us who were using surplus reg. outfits, two of us have laid out cash for a name brand regulator ... you know it well. So far, haven't had decent dive with the new outfit, my luddie whose reg. is one week older, was out for a week due to a stuck lever arm. First off, the outfits leaked badly. Swallowed much water, dealers "couldn't care less" ... when I complained to the dealer who sold me mine, he handed me a can of cement and suggested I could glue down the diaphragm if I wished.

This I did, plus some scotch plastic tape molded about the joint for good measure, and some cement about the threads on a screw that enters the reg. from the outside, and the leaking stopped, now all we have to put up with is the horrible flutter from the diaphragm when inhaling, and the hard breathing, neither phenomenon is peculiar to my regulator only, by the way. Oh, well, the third party has profited by our misfortune, since he still uses his excellent surplus outfit, while we bemoan the 60 shekels we laid on the line for the junk we got, meanwhile putting up with the miserable things while diving.

You can run surplus outfits into the ground all you want, but this is understandable, since the big outfits buy lots of advertising space and you cats make money . . . everyone makes lots of gold . . . everyone except the long suffering diver. Example, there isn't \$5 worth of stock material in my regulator, much less 60. My twin tank manifold I made myself (as did all three of us) for a total cost of \$2.50, my harness of stainless steel strapping and nylon webbing cost not \$20.00, but \$3.00. I could go on and on. There is, for example, no excuse whatsoever for the outrageous price of from 8 to 10 beans for some lead slugs and a bit of cotton webbing that these robbers sell you for a weight belt.
We built our own quick release buckles and cast our own weights with the use of the wives' gas range, a fry pan and a cookie tin for a mold for a cost of nearly nothing and about two and a half hours time. It's utterly unthinkable that it can't be done commercially for at

In short, Mr. Editor, drop dead, along with the rest of the forty thieves that infest the Ali-Baba caves sometimes known as Divers' supply stores. You can be sure, there are three divers, and by now many more, who are going to do their best to spread the word on this business. A fair shake is one thing, but the purple shaft is another. Frankly, if either dealer had shown the slightest bit of concern with our complaints after laying out many bucks for their equipment, I'd not be quite so bitter, but now . . . well, our motto has become "do unto dealers as we have been dealth with."

Bob Degray San Diego

A very interesting letter . . . we are happy to note that somebody has ditched their surplus units and obtained regulators that are made for underwater use. A wise decision!!! If Bob will report his problems to the manufacturer of the equipment I am sure that they will be corrected and his unit put in first class shape. Also the manufacturer will be happy to know of the faults or blemishes in his product and will make the necessary alterations on his assembly line. The dealers in this case need an education such as Bob received when he switched Scubunits.—Ed.

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BILL STARR (left), Instructor of the Los Angeles County Dept. of Parks and Recreation Underwater Recreation Program, presents diploma to graduating diver-instructor in the oval tank at Marineland of the Pacific. Three of these Instructors courses have been held under the able direction of Mr. Starr giving Los Angeles County an excellent staff of competent Scuba and Skin Diving Instructors. For information regarding the Public Skin Diving and Scuba classes in Los Angeles County write to "Underwater Recreation," BY West Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles 15, California, or call Richmond 7-5511 — Ext. 17.

#### How are you at . . . ?

# Ear Speech

#### From the "SEAFARER"

At last something really good has turned up. You have heard of people talking through their hat ... well, it has been discovered that a microphone can be placed in one's ear and he can talk through it. This, in conjunction with a transistor amplifier, is obviously the solution to the problem of talking under water. Before describing some of the more subtle advantages of such a unit, we will quote a couple of paragraphs from Time Magazine:

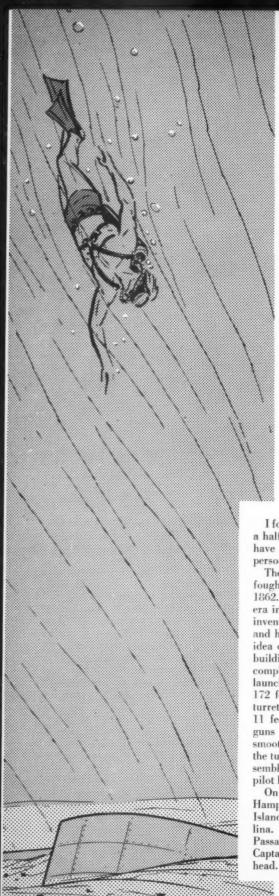
"At Ohio State University, Drs. Henry M. Moser, John J. Dreher and Herbert Oyer, backed by the Air Force, are trying to develop a special ear microphone. They have found that when a speaker's mouth is covered by a sound-absorbing baffle, his speech can be heard, weakly but dis-

tinctly, through a stethescope in one of his ears. Picked up with a microphone. ear speech can be amplified until it as loud as desired. It has a rather "bright" sound, but is not very different from mouth speech. The beauty of the system is that an ear microphone does not get in the wearer's way and is easy to isolate from noise around it. The Ohio scientists tested the intelligibility of ear speech by giving six men the same test sentence to speak through both ears and mouth. When the outside noise level was low. both kinds of speech came over well, but as the noise was increased, ear speech forged ahead. In practice, an airplane pilot will probably listen through one ear and talk through the other. The whole apparatus will be tightly enclosed in his helmet. Outside noise will have a

hard time working its way into this communication system, which is almost as private as if it were entirely inside the wearer's head."

It is obvious that the sound of talking extends throughout the head, but it seems particularly ingenious to pick up the sounds in the ears. To talk effectively, one should probably remove one' mouthpiece and possibly talk through a "Chore Girl" to break up the bubbles. Most forms of earphones work as microphones and vice versa, therefore, one can talk and listen through the same earpiece. Also, the same transducer in the water would send and receive. The (potted transistor) amplifier should amplify and pass signals going in both directions like a telephone repeater. Transistors tend to amplify in both directions even if the collector and emitter are formed to act differently. This system would seem optimum in that one amplifies signals coming and going with a single unit, sound does not have to pass through a rubber helmet, and there is an impedance match from air to water (or ear to water) going both ways . . . which is just what one wants.

SKIN DIVER - SEPTEMBER - 9



Scuba Diver Finds Civil War Iron-Clad

# "I FOUND THE MONITOR"

By ROBERT MARX

Robert Marx is a 21-year-old Marine from Los Angeles, California, who has a penchant for locating sunken vessels. We know you join us in wishing him all the luck in the world in bringing back "ALIVE" this relic of American history!

I found the Monitor! It took a year and a half, but believe me, it was worth it to have the satisfaction of being the first person to walk her decks in 93 years!

The Monitor and Merrimac (Virginia) fought their great battle on March 9th, 1862. The battle was a draw, but a new era in Naval history was made. She was invented by a Swede named Ericsson and he had great difficulty in selling the idea of an "iron-clad" to the Navy. The building cost was \$275,000 and she was completed in a record of 100 days and launched on January 30, 1862. She was 172 feet long, 42 feet in the beam, had turrets eight feet tall and the vessel drew 11 feet. She was armed with only two guns but they were powerful 11 inch smooth bores. Fifty-five feet forward of the turret was a small structure which resembled a "cheese box," but it was her pilot house.

On Dec. 29, 1862 the Monitor left Hampton Roads in tow of the Rhode Island headed for Beaufort, North Carolina. Also in the expedition were the Passaic, and the State of Georgia. Her Captain was Commander John P. Bankhead. He was worried about the weather

and the Monitor's ability to make the journey. However, the ocean was calm when the Monitor rounded Cape Henry, Virginia. Now the long trip south began in earnest. The following day as she neared Cape Hatteras, she was hit by a wind that came in from the southeast. A storm began by night fall and increased Later th to a bad gale in a few hours.

The Monitor began to wallow helplessly in the terrific seas. Shortly afterwards the violent pitching and rolling became so serious that anchor was let out and the towing hawser cut, but the water still came pouring into the Monitor. The Rhode Island immediately came about and the Captain sent three lifeboats across to the sinking "Iron-Clad." Finally all but sixteen men were saved from the Monitor.

The position of the Monitor was set at 25 miles from the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. The Captain of the Rhode Island said she was 10 miles from the light, the helmsman put her three miles due East of the Light, and no two survivors agreed on the position. Due to the rough seas, the Monitor lost contact with the Rhode Island, with the 16 men still left spected

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aqualun at the 1 five mi the sand I ran i aboard her. In the log of the Rhode Island the Captain stated that he was sure the Monitor would stay affoat for a few days and a pass-vessel might save the helpless men aboard her.

I collected all the information on where to start my project from various museums, Smithsonian Institute, National Archives, Library of Congress, Mariners Museum in Newport News, old news clippings, conversations with men who have hunted her in the past, relations of the crew members who were lost on her, natives of Cape Hatteras, old lifesaving service records (Coast Guard). My biggest break was talking to old men of Cape Hatteras who claim to have seen the Monitor at low tide off the Cape Hatteras light many years ago.

On June 12th, 1955 while on leave from the Marine Corp and flying a friend's plane, I spotted the Monitor from the air. I dropped a buoy over the hulk and took rough bearings. The sea was as smooth as glass and I could see deep into the water. Lack of proper equipment prevented further investigation at that time.

On July 10 I set out from Cape Hatteras in a boat equipped with a fathometer. We laid our buoys in the area of the wreck and searched the bottom with the fathometer. On Monday, July 11th Cmdr. J. C. Mathisson of the U. S. Coast Guard and Geodetic Survey who was operating three sonar-equipped vessels in the Cape Hatteras area. offered to help in locating the Monitor. We went aboard one of these vessels, the Stirni, and resumed search operations with their more effective

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equipment. Five hours later the Stirni's sonar picked up a good contact in the area we were searching. The Commanding Officer, C. R. Reed, made several runs on the contact and pin-pointed the location. Later that afternoon the Stirni was joined by two other Coast Guard and Geodetic Survey ships, the Parker and the Bowen. and they laid out a drag line and combed lling be the bottom of the same area.

A possible "hang" occurred in the same spot the Stirni had received the sonar contact. An exact "fix" was made at this position but darkness prevented further operations.

On the following morning, Tuesday rom the July 12th, we returned to our vessel to carry out diving operations to investigate the sonar contact and the possible "hang."

At 8:12 a.m. wearing a double-tank aqualung I went over the side precisery lue East at the position of the sonar contact and urvivors five minutes later, while crawling along ne rough the sandy bottom on my hands and knees with the I ran into a large steel cylinder. I instill left spected the cylinder observing that it was



DENNIS JAMES (left) of CBSTV, and Bob Marx (right), examine blueprints of the "Monitor" during the "On Yo Account" TV show. Marx appeared on the show soon after the discovery. James is also a skin diver.

—C.B.S. & Impact Photo

of riveted steel-plated construction and about 10 feet in diameter. Knowing this must be the turret of the Monitor I looked for the cannon ports and found them, almost buried in the sand, facing port to starboard. Immediately afterwards I rose to the surface, signalled to the other members of the party, and after they had made a note of my exact position. I returned to the boat.

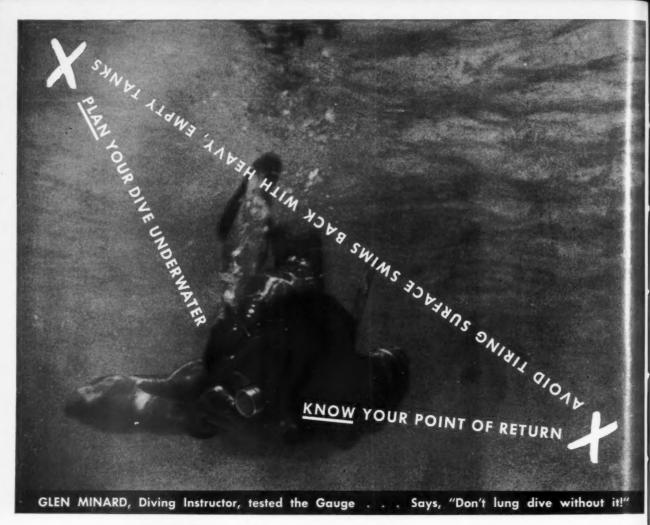
About an hour later I returned to the Monitor in company with my diving companion, Keith Ingram, a former Marine from Houston, Texas. We both inspected the turret and marked the position with small buoys. We made two other trips down to the wreck which was clearly visible under the sand. Once we stood on either the bow or the stern. Later that morning one of the officers of the Stirni, Lt. J. R. Plaggmier came to our vessel and took a six way "fix" on the position of the wreck.

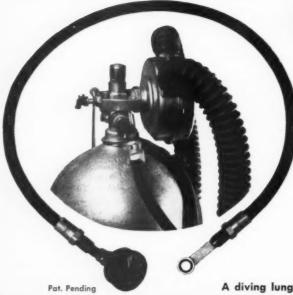
He also gave us a steel cable buoy with which to mark the location. We returned to Cape Hatteras that afternoon and somewhat later I went to the hospital in Buxton since I was suffering from an unusually severe headache. The Doctor there examined my eyes, ears, nose and throat and informed me that he believed I had broken my inner ear drum during the rapid ascent following the first spotting of the Monitor. He advised me against further diving until I had an opportunity to consult a specialist. On Saturday July 16th I returned to Camp Leieune.

The "Hurricane" season is here now and we have not been able to get an underwater picture of the Monitor. However Ed Link, famed expert of the sea, who found an anchor from one of Columbus' ships recently and who is fully equipped to conduct the most difficult kind of search is going to give her a try. We plan on raising the Monitor right after the "Hurricane" season which will probably be in January. The Smithsonian Institute estimated that the raising of the sunken Monitor will cost \$200,000. but I have contacted a man in Wilmington, Captain Asa Harris, who has been raising sunken ships all over the world.

He has studied my blueprints and the area where I found the Monitor. He claims that it will cost only \$25,000 to bring her up. I certainly am not the first person to be interested in the Monitor. Many people have tried to locate the ship over the years, but have not been too successful. In 1946 Edward Rowe Stowe. author of eight books on sunken ships announced that he had found the Monitor. In 1947 an anti-submarine patrol of the U.S. Navy sighted the ship. Shifting sands in the treacherous waters off Cape Hatteras apparently covered the vessel in each case, and she was again lost.

But I have walked on the sand-covered deck of the Monitor and even wedged a soft drink bottle in one of her gun ports. One of these days she will be raised to the surface in all her ancient glory, a gallant reminder of the brave men who made American history!





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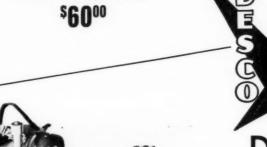
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# PEARL SHELL DIVERS OF TAKUME

#### By RICHARD CROSBY

Raroia is a mid-Pacific atoll which lies like a necklace of yellow beads on the deep blue tapestry of the sea for a background. It is also the title of a recent book that made its debut in the U. S. after going through a translation from the Swedish. Well circulated in Europe, it has already been read in 12 countries and as many languages. Its chapters are an invitation to a dream-island come true, until you read the ending.

Of interest to "Skin Diver" readers should be a chapter or more in which the author, Bengt Danielsson, who incidentally was one of the crew members of the famed Kon-Tiki raft, tells of how he discovered the island when the famous raft broke up, ending the long, trans-Pacific 4500-mile journey on its outer fringe of coral reefs. At the request of the island's chief, he went back with his wife to live there for a year and a half. During his stay he learned about a near-by island's shell-diving industry and makes a splendid report on it which is up to date.

Skin diving for pearl-shell, or the mother-of-pearl as it is called is about the only occupation carried on. The easy-going natives when they work—and this in't too frequently—do some pretty spectacular skin diving, this by any man's standards.

Unlike the pearl which adorns milady's neck and which was the item of trade of a century ago, the product in vogue seems to be pearl-shell, more famous as an accordion-surfacer and men's shirt button. Its embryo must grow some four years before big enough to interest the trade. The tiny mussel is a sensitive organism and lives only if it can survive the ravages of predatory fish and strong tidal currents which take it out to sea. They do thrive in coral-protected lagoons, soon form shells and sink to the bottom, there to continue growth only if they strike

hard bottom. If they land on sand or clay they are lost and die.

Also, their water cannot remain still but must be refreshed by some amount of circulation. Too high a coral ridge around a lagoon prevents this, as on Raroia, and therefore this island has a limited shell content. Its lagoon abounds in fish—which are spearfished—also limiting the shells, as does a strong tide passing in and out through its single inlet.

On the nearby island of Takume conditions are more ideal. Raroians migrate there during the diving season which lasts several months each year. This migration of divers and their friends takes place in large outrigger canoes 15 to 25 feet in length and 3-foot beam. They make the daring trips through some 3 or 4 miles of open sea. The flotilla assembles and waits for weeks sometimes awaiting calm weather before risking the trip during which time virtually entire villages are so evacuated.

To the island of Takume come some 500 divers. Not all of them are professionals, but adventurous Tuamotuans and Tahitians who dream of earning a fortune quickly. If they profit, they usually spend every centime on drink and other things furnished by local island merchants, only to return to their nearby homes just as broke as when they came. With the divers come relations, assistants, shopkeepers, prostitutes, buyers, recruiters and boatowners. Some profit reasonably well, not all are Polynesians. Many shops are owned by Chinese. All of the island's bakers for instance, are Chinese.

It's surprising how many profit off the skin divers. The recruiters, mostly European sailors and adventurers sponsor the trips the divers make from far-away island homes on the promise that they in turn sell their shells to no other person. The buyers rank the highest in social standing. Most of them French or Chinese, frequently arriving in their own

schooners, they dominate the trade entirely.

Mother-of-pearl shell being a luxury item, its market value has been very unsteady. Demand for it peaked just after World War I, but during the thirties the bottom dropped out. For awhile they couldn't give shell away long after the depression was over. During the last war someone recreated interest with a new industry which made mother-of-pearl souvenirs selling in great volume to American troops in the Pacific. This held till even today, when now the shell is in greater demand than there is a supply, The island buyers fight fiercely over the available stocks paying 30 francs (48 cents) per kilo (2.2 pounds) wight. They in turn sell at some 50 France (80 cents), so the bargaining is always lively.

Diving is done off canoes, of course. A motorboat captain who tows out and brings back a string of canoes to the center of the lagoon is another profiteer. Charging 30 mussels per day per canoe, he handles some 16 canoes at a time netting himself the dollar equivalent of \$115.00 per day. The tow takes about a half an hour each day.

On arrival the canoes paddle-out in different directions to favorite locations. A typical skin diver wears the tiny eyesocket goggles, a canvas glove over the right hand, and a net-bag attached to a belt at the waist.

They "warm-up" first by diving to comparatively shallow depths of 25 to 30 feet, limbering-up slowly and getting used to the water temperature so as not to get cramps. From the surface they can be seen through the crystal-clear water breaking off large, bearded mussels from their stony bottom attachments. Quickly, they stuff these into their nets and swim up. A dozen shells per man, per dive, is not uncommon.

Diving deeper they move their canoes from this known shoal water until the anchor touches at not less than 100 feet, usually more. Sinkers are used, as by the ancient sponge and pearl divers of the Mediterranean, to descend as rapidly as possible. These are attached to long, thin lines by which they can be retrieved. A collection basket is likewise weighed and tossed overside, pulled up only when full.

They dive without apparently taking any deep breath and emerge breaking surface at great speed after a minute and a half below. Their diving and ascending speed must be terrific to cover so much distance— and still have a moment or two on the bottom to look-for, break-off and put the shell into the basket. They come aboard the canoe while exhaling with a whistling sound, after which they sit quietly as if in a daze for a long while. After some minutes of such relaxation they seem to come to life again laughing

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Some divers stay under a good deal longer per dive, but also rest longer topside. They go up and down as if using an elevator, while assistants aboard the boat busy themselves cleaning out the shells. For the divers an ideal combination seems to be a minute and a half below with a three-minute rest topside. This varies with the individuals involved and averages 10 to 12 dives per hour.

At the height of the diving activity as many as 100 canoes can be seen spread out on the lagoon, with shining, brownskinned figures diving repeatedly.

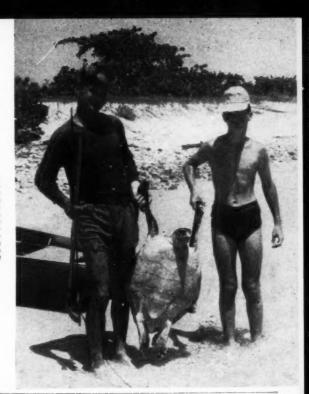
Parties of women dive as energetically as the men. The natives regard their women as better divers than men because they are fatter and don't feel the cold water at greater depths, thus being able to stay down a trifle longer. The end result- is the same, however, since the women spend at least half the time gossiping and wasting time on the surface.

The divers are men and women usually in the prime of their life, while the mussel cleaners are older people and children. For hygienic reasons the mussels are cleaned aboard the boats according to French law. A surprising fact is that the shell cleaners can seldom keep up with the divers' rate of shell gathering, giving a good indication of the pace of the activity. In a morning's work 200 shells per canoe is an average of the take. After several hours of rest, the canoes are towed out again to the center of the lagoon where they resume work which nets about half again as much as the morning's production. The shells are as large as a dinner plate and average five pounds each. Each diver makes about \$50.00 per day for such work.

This work, which seems like easy money to strangers, also takes its toll. One or two divers are lost each season, usually beginners who are attacked by cramps or are affected by giddiness.

Other fatilities occur through hemorrhage of the lungs, and the most dangerous of all-huge tridacna mussels which clamp onto a diver's ankle or arm, probably also breaking it, but always holding it long enough to drown the individual. Like a huge bear-trap it clamps fast and firmly and escape is impossible.

When these things happen all diving is stopped for the day. The flotilla gathers around the lost diver's canoe in reverent silence, then follows it in procession towards the village. Other natives line the shore expectantly and every woman in the village is convinced that her husband has fallen victim. Nearing land the dead diver's canoe flies a red loincloth at halfmast while the shrill voice of a boy aboard yells out the victim's name. Excepting the FATHER AND SON com-bination Earle and Rob-ert Williamson of Val-encia, Venezuela. This encia, Venezuela. This due started fishing to-gether four years ago and have proven the "buddy system" several times. The character in the center, a 50-1b. turtle from Puerto Cabello, is not diving any more.



relatives of the departed, other mourners disperse quickly back to their huts. The buyers waiting on shore do likewise only after hushed bargaining first for the diver's products.

The islanders are not a people to remain in gloom very long, however. Too quickly perhaps, before the day is ended there is laughter; talking and music is heard. They are a happy-go-lucky lot and don't allow sadness to prevail for very

Some divers are affected by depth and too many dives becoming sort of simpleminded and greatly mixed-up. The natives think this very comical when it happens and are "sorry to see them get well." The cure for this—the affliction lasting for weeks or months sometimes-is a "good drink and a lot of Rum," which admittedly doesn't always work.

When a couple of complete helmetdiving dresses were introduced to the island by enterprising Tahitian importers all the natives using them died. Not having much respect for mechanical things, like the many bicycles on the islands which are seen discarded when they develop a flat tire, the diving suits also suffered from lack of understanding. Despite the careful instructions given, the natives did everything wrong, some competing with one another to see who could stay under the longest. Divertenders fooled around forgetting their pumps or broke them, while divers were below. When merchants brought in European divers, local skin divers stopped them, fearing competition. Soon the diving suits disappeared again to give way

to old, simpler, and more dangerous ways which have lasted for countless centuries among the simple people. Even today, there is nothing more modern used than the tiny goggles, the canvas glove, and the net-bag at the waist, and a great trust in a healthy body.

Many readers may get the urge to grab their ditty-bag full of the barest necessities, their lung, fins, mask, and possibly Abalone irons and rush down there to show those Takume natives a thing or two. Well, before you do, I'd advise you to look into the very unfriendly immigration restrictions, in effect forbidding outsiders to settle there. In many ways for the natives only—it remains the idyllic paradise and probably is in reality the island of many men's dreams. But the legal hand of so called civilization has a very firm grip even on such a remote place as Takume, located 4000-miles from San Francisco and 4250-miles from Sydney, Australia. You have to get shipwrecked on its shores—and make it look good-to stay there, at least until an accommodating government official ships you home on the next boat. Meanwhile, the ringlet of coral ridges forming a broken letter "O" will remain an untouched community of happy brownskinned natives who laugh and play in the sun all day and work as little as pos-

Book titled: "Raroia, Happy Island of the South Seas," by Bengt Danielsson; Rand McNally & Co., publishers.

Also see: "Skin Diving in Kon Tiki Waters," by Robert R. Harry, page 10, Sept., 1953 issue of "Skin Diver."

# SAILS ΤO ANDROS

#### By LEON PADDOCK

This year's film expedition is over. We had a lot of laughs, some injuries, some insect bites, some bad weather. We shot a lot of film; some of it will be good, some bad. In general the trip was a huge success and now, upon getting home, the second part of the job begins: editing and sound recording.

The sequence of the steel ship that is broken in half by the delicate Coral Polyp, a beautiful, voracious, stinging, rock-building animal will be a highlight of the film. Our location for these scenes also gave us an opportunity to study and film the lovliest coral gardens and the finest example of a coral barrier reef in the world: the reef off Andros Island!

We entered B. W. I. at Cat Cav and thence to Andros Island where we anchored in Morgan's Cove. This is the cove where Sir Henry Morgan the pirate laid away some of his loot. We explored the very jungle and caves where this colorful double-crosser had trod, hidden loot, and done away with captives by torture.

Here, each day was filled with new and exciting experiences. Diving in the warm water where thousands of fish and living creatures abound: where all the colors of the rainbow are found in the coral gardens: where the edge of danger is always present, and the tang of excitement never wears off because of the awareness of savage carnivores that may be near by.

We visited an unspoiled town on Andros, saw a lake which is supposed to have a mermaid who comes up at midnight on the full moon: were present for an unscheduled, and, for us, unprecedented, performance of the fire dance which is an uninhibited ritual dance centuries old.

One night, while anchored at Andros in Morgan's Cove, the whole heavens put on a fireworks display; lightning flashing overhead as well as down into the water. A powerful rain squall came racing across the island toward our boat: we could hear the clatter on the coconut tree jungle as well as see it approaching. We

FRED HOWARD and Jack Chase, members of the Paddock Expeplay with a Fish or Puffer Fish een underwater

were short of water, so we stripped nude and hurriedly put up sails to catch the fresh water. Then we all had a fresh water shower. The whole episode was very refreshing except that the rain fell with such force, that each drop struck the skin like a little stone; a rain of gravel that turned into sweet fresh water. The lightning flashes caused the entire beach in a great arc around us to fluoresce. This phenomenon known as "Sea-lights" was especially prevalent, whether due to the static influence of the high pressure area or not, I'll never know. The "Sea-lights" are tiny micro-organisms in the ocean that begin to fluoresce, and at that instant begin to whirl in an eccentric circle, thus making quite a display in the water. Multiply this by hundreds intermittently flashing on and off, with the storm roaring overhead and you have a pretty good picture of our private fireworks display by the Great Architect!

Around Morgan's Bluff to nearby Nichols Town, a quaint old-world village, unspoiled by the profusion of tourists who usually change the personalities of towns if they are in the tourist routes. The people here are plain and cheerful, welcoming us by coming out to our boat in their skiffs.

They propell the skiff by "skulling" a single long oar off the stern operated in a twisting motion by one standing man. The people swarmed over the boat at first and it seemed there was a shuttle service of skiffs to and from the shore.

When seeing the boat from shore I remarked that it looked like an ant hill with black ants running all over it. Small

boys mostly, many of them naked and diving into the water for fun. Days later, after they learned we were skin divers, they were constantly showing us how they too could dive down.

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The people have a great respect for the "Tiger of the Sea," Barracuda. We were very cautious at first, having learned of the attacks on humans, and of the fierce

appearance, etc.

Our own experiences after seven days of diving in as many areas, with Barracuda sighted in every case, told us that he is a curious fish with excellent evesight and that he follows the diver out of curiosity. It is a bit frightening to be diving, enjoying your coral garden and observing the living things, then become suddenly aware of a long Barracuda floating, suspended about ten feet away. By experiment, we know that moving toward him will always make him flee, and when you think he is gone and you have started minding your own business again, you are startled to find him right there once again. But, at no time did any of us get the indication that one was about to attack.

Underwater photography conditions here are as nearly perfect as one could hope for. Clear water and bright overhead light, slightly diffused, with patches of white coral sand bottom to reflect light upward into the dark places.

We covered the genuine beauty of the gardens in a different way as opposed to the treatment to date in the other underwater films you have seen. We filmed some remarkable life action pictures a well, many of them being pure luck! But,

16 - SEPTEMBER - SKIN DIVER

welcome, very very welcome luck! Spearing fish is actually a background this time with the sea and it's living things the feature.

There are long hours of ocean to cross going from one point on a map to another. It looks so near on the map, your measurements tell you it is not far. But in a boat pushing its way through the surface of the liquid ocean, the time sometimes seems endless. I call it. (the water) the "bridge to interest!" The time for travelling seems endless and the water seems to go on forever, but this is not boredom, nor does it cause any dampening to the spirit of the expedition. The travelling time allows us to repair, organize, and correlate, so that we might be ready for the action at the next point of interest. After these things are done. just relaxing, letting the water flow past under the boat, watching the sails against the sky, sort of rejuvenates you to the coming new place.

Filming the gorgeous profusion of artist v in the water which seems to be a jungle with no pattern or order, is an experience which fills your days and nights with wonder! Yet, we know there is order and precision in the life balance of these simple animals which only live and die. During their lifetime they secrete a tiny spec of calcium to add to the mass on which other countless millions have added their secretion. The great Barrier is thus built by these blind. mindless, goal-less animals into a thing of beauty and inspiration, and of destruction in the case of a ship, which, being mishandled by men, (the most intelligent animal on earth), in time of storm is caught and held in the coral reef!

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Plans are already being laid for next year's film expedition to the Galapagos Archipelago.

Watch for the showings of "Sails to Andros" as Paddock tours across the country to Florida this winter and spring. >



ANDROS dancer in hypnetic state induced by dancing and rhythm of the Fire Dance.

# INTER-AMERICAN SPONSOR BID ISSUED

Nineteen three-man teams competed for the 2nd Inter-American Champion title, although the optimistic U.S. and Latin organizing committees had expected about six teams from different nations and a possible maximum of eight. Such response in a section of the globe where the distances are so great, cleary indicates a major interest in underwater spearfishing competition on an international scale.

A bid for \$800.00 including the travel expenses of the defending champions has already been made from the city of Guaymas, Mexico.

This article may be considered as an invitation to any nation, mandate, colony, organization or city of the Americas to offer a sponsor bid for the 1957 Inter-America Underwater Spearfishing Championship.

Bids may be sent to Helms Hall. 8760 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles 34, Calif.

The deadline for bids will be July of 1956 but a suitable bid may be accepted by the Inter-America Committee prior to

Following is a general outline of the Trophy Deed of Gift:

The Cuauhtemoc Trophy shall be delivered to the country of the winning team within 90 days after the Inter-America Underwater Spearfishing Championship.

The Inter-America Underwater Spearfishing Championship, Perpetual Trophy (Cuauhtemoc Trophy) shall be delivered to the winning club if incorporated, or to an incorporated, non-profit organization designated by the winning club.

Engraving costs will be borne by the Championships Committee.

Cost of insurance of the Cuauhtemoc Trophy for \$1000.00 for a two year period will be borne by the winning club.

Transportation of the Cuauhtemoc Trophy to the winning country and to the site of the subsequent defense, shall be paid by the defending champions.

The Cuauhtemoc Trophy shall be competed for every two years, unless the Organizing Committee decides otherwise after vote by the representatives.

Sponsorship of the Inter-American Underwater Spearfishing Championship may be offered at open bid to all countries of the Americas two years prior to the Championship but in no event less than 18 months prior to the date of competition.



370-lb. MERO speared in the last Brazilian Champion-ships by Luiz Pini. Brazil will probably take an active part in the 1957 Inter-American Underwater Spearfishng championships.
—Photo submited by Claudio Mello.

Location of the competition and acceptance of the preferred bid must be decided by the Inter-American Underwater Spearfishing Championship Committee at least 16 months prior to the date of the Championship.

The three (3) top teams of the National Amateur Underwater Spearfishing Championships from each country of the Americas shall be extended invitations to compete at the Inter-America Underwater Spearfishing Championship.

Display of the Cuauhtemoc Trophy by the Team, Club or Club sponsor for a period of 60 days upon agreement with the Inter-America Underwater Spearfishing Championship Committee.

With underwater spearfishing in the U. S. backed by the National A.A.U., this entire schedule is subject to change by the Foreign Relations Committee of the A.A.U. and the International Amateur Swimming Federation.

All representatives on the National A.A.U. Underwater Spearfishing Committee should brief their delegates thoroughly on the foregoing material so they will be able to discuss the Inter-America competitions with understanding at the National Convention in Louisville. Kentucky.

The 1957 competition will mark the sixth successful year of the Inter-America Championships started by Ernesto Zaragoza of Mexico in May of 1952 and should prove a solid starting point for international competition under a strong International Sport Federation.



ZALE PARRY (front), PERRY BIVENS and COL. CRAIG relax on the stern of the "Maray" after a strenuous day of diving and filming action pictures for the television program "Kingdom of the Sea." This West Coast program brings a weekly marine message to the general public and unfolds our world beneath the sea to thousands of T.V. viewers.

—Photo by Mart Toggweiler

Background Scenes from T.V.'s . . .

# Kingdom of the Sea

By RORY PAGE

I spent the last few days of July cruising around Catalina Island with the "Kingdom of the Sea's" actors and crew, collecting a behind the scenes story for our readers. "Wow", what a wonderful few days it was. I only wish all of our readers could have been there with us.

I had never realized the preparation it takes to prepare and make these stories. To me, it was very enjoyable. The Catalina people really broke out the red carpet for everyone. Zale Parry, Col. Craig, Parry Bivens, George Wilhelm, Verme Pederson, and the rest of the crew, toured the whole island; taking pictures of its many points of interest.

During the latter days, Parry was dressed in Al Hanson's heavy diving suit for a trip to the briny deep the hard way. While he was being dressed in the diving suit by Paul Street, acting as Parry's diving tender, Parry kept asking Paul to speed the process up, as he was becoming a little seasick from the confinement and close quarters. Parry handled himself very well in the deep sea rig. As he came back to the surface, I asked him what he thought of the deep sea diving

rig. He said it was fine if you liked being bottled like wine.

I think the most enjoyable part of the entire trip for everyone, was the luau. We took Parry's and Cap Perkin's small boats, and collected some of the Island's beautiful girls. We then cruised out to a beautiful little cove, just outside of Avalon. The boats pulled in and we dropped the supplies and the gang on the beach. This turned out to be quite a task because of all of our camera equipment. As soon as Zale got off Parry's boat, she began rummaging around the rocks, looking for odd shaped shells and strange rock dwelling sea creatures. This, incidentally, is a passionate hobby of hers.

Most of the men, under the supervision of Paul Street, headed out into the water around the rocks and kelp beds that surround the cove, to retrieve abalone and fish for the big feed. Believe me, it took an astounding short while to get our food. As soon as the fire was started, Paul, who is also a seafood gourmet, prepared the most wonderful abalone sandwiches it has ever been my pleasure to eat. Along with cokes, potato chips, and fruit, it was a meal fit for kings.

#### Forty Competitors In French Championships

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Forty divers, one of them a woman, entered the French National Spearfishing Championships this year that was held in Marseille. The competition lasted for a period of five hours and was won by Mr. Robert Buffaz with a total of 8,590 pcints. Second was Mr. Serge Buffaz who had 8,025 points, third in the winners line was Rogert Gauthier with 7,900 pcints all of which was garnered on a noray eel weighing 7-kgs. Robert and Serge Buffoz used Espadon guns and Mr. Gau hier utilized the Peche-Sport gun.

The system used for determining the winners was a point system based of the type of fish as well as the weight. The first 12 winners in the contest were chosen to represent France at the International Spearfishing Champion hips held at the Island of Mallorca, Seain, August 14, 1955.

One of the requirements for the French Championships was that the diverbeable to descend to 40 feet.



PHOTOGRAPHY

By PAUL CHERNEY

This column, started in the August issue, is being held over for inclusion in the October "Photography" issue. Watch for it next month together with the latest developments in all phases of underwater photography.

Manu, the Hawaiian knife dancer, who is part of the entertainment show at the Wakiki night club, came along with us to furnish some of the atmosphere. After everyone ate their fill, he got us all started doing Hawaiian chants, singing and slapping the arms and thighs, which to my amazement created sounds and songs which made a thrilling spectacle, and one typical of the occasion.

Our last night, which was Sunday, was spent at the Wakiki night club. Sunday night at the Wakiki is sarong night. Everyone is given sarongs, and a hilarious contest is held for both men and women, performing the Hawaiian hula on the stage of the Wakiki. Prizes are awarded for the best, as well as the worst dancers of each sex. If you have never seen this spectacle before, believe me, you have missed a wonderful experience with a thousand laughs. But I shouldn't say missed, because you can watch for it on the "Kingdom of the Sea's" program, and live with them again through the medium of television, the wonders of Catalina Island.

18-SEPTEMBER-SKIN DIVER

# Asociacion de Cazadores Submarinos de Cuba

By CAPTAIN ARMANDO PIEDRA

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The Asociacion De Cazadores Submarinos De Cuba celebrated the "First National Underwater Spearfishing Championship" which took place in Cavo Piedra, Varadero Beach, with the entry of fifteen teams.

Perpetual trophy "Moni Pichardo" Inter was won by "Las Guasas" of Varadero on hips whose members are Felix Quintana, Manu I Sosa and Gotardo Espinosa with a total catch of one hundred and fiftyone pounds.

> The biggest catch was a "Sting Ray" weighing ninety-six pounds taken by Mario Costa, member of "Los Delfines" that won second place with a total of one hundred thirty pounds. Third place was won by "Los Zorros Del Mar" with a total of one hundred twenty-six pounds.

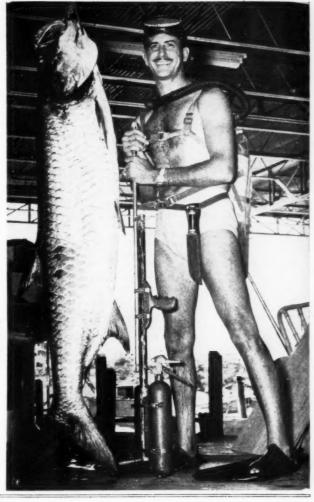
> The "Denizens of the Deep" catch was the biggest in number of fishes. They did not win any of the first three places due to a rule which disregarded fish under three pounds. They, however, showed great sportsmanship.

> Perpetual trophy "Moni Pichardo" was donated by Colonel Roberto Fernandez Miranda, Director of Comision Nacional De Deportes. The Asociacion De Gazadores Submarinos De Cuba is looking forward to celebrate an international Championship in Cuba next winter when water is only a little chilly and clear as glass. Interested clubs should write to Captain Armando Piedra, Presidente A.C.S.C. Calle 2 No. 122 - Miramar, Habana, Cuba.

> Arrangements have not been made vet but we are spreading the idea to see how much interest there might be. There is big hope that it will be possible with the cooperation of Colonel Roberto Fernandez Miranda, who is very enthusiastic about all sports, especially spearfishing, which he practices quite often.

> Great discipline and sportsmanship was demonstrated at all moments during competitions. We made the mistake of renting boats which not only were expensive but also a great inconvenience. No boats next time. With this exception the Championship was a success.

> Trophies were given at the International Hotel, Varadero, during lunch after competitions.



Capt. Armando Piedra with a fish nearly as long as he is tall. Catch was made in front of the Morro Castle, Hav-ana. Home made CO2

Book Review . . .

# A MANUAL FOR FREE DIVERS USING COMPRESSED AIR

D. W. Owen — Author

By R. K. AWTREY

A skin diver buying his first underwater breathing apparatus would do well to pick up a copy of this handy little book at the same time. And after the diver has become the master of his equipment, he will want to keep the book as a reference.

The author is the chief underwater swimmer at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Massachusetts, and in addition to his own experience he has drawn from Navy diving and other sources for technical data. However, the book is not too technical for us laymen to understand and it is written in a very readable style.

The book gives all the tricks of the trade in the use of the aqualung and other self-contained units. A list of the chapter headings will give an idea of the completeness of the manual; they are: general physical qualifications, the mechanics of free diving, some general precautions, corrective or emergency procedures, and some physiological consequences of diving. An excellent series of photographs show how to clear one's mask and hoses underwater. In addition there is, of course, the ubiquitous Navy diving tables. An appendix of suggested reading must list everything written appropos of free-diving and allied problems such as cold-water immersion, for example.

Skin divers will find this practical little book instructive and informative

SKIN DIVER - SEPTEMBER - 19

# Divers' Bulletin Board

RATES: Personal — \$1.00 minimum or 4c per word. Commercial—10c per word. Payment must accompany copy before deadline date, 10th of month.

DO YOU HAVE AN AIR PROBLEM? Own a high pressure air compressor. Fill diving cylinders to 2200 lb. or more in less than 4 minutes. Rugged, reliable Ingersoll-Rand equipment sold at lowest prices by a diver to others interested in this facinating sport. Complete tested instructions furnished enabling anyone to set up and operate asfe, fast refill plant. Write for details. Thomas J. Doolin, P. O. Box 181, Key West, Florida.

KEY WEST—Picturesque reefs for skin diving and underwater photography. Complete rental equipment. ED CIESINSKI, the nation's first skin diving guide, with 22 years diving experience. Fast 25 ft. Cruiser—\$50.00 per day—504 Simonton St. Phone CY 6-3263, Key West, Florida.

BACK ISSUES—all issues of the SKIN DIVER for the year 1954 and 1955 to-date, \$35c each. Write BACK ISSUES, Box 128, Lynwood, Calif. Send money with order—No C.O.D.

AQUA-LUNG spare 70 cu. ft. tank complete with harness. Like new. \$19.00. 3225 N. E. 6th Street, Pompano Beach, Florida.

WOULD YOU LIKE to cruise around Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands, take your wife. Stay a week or more sometime between August 22 and September 5th. 46 foot motor-sailer. Call John Logan, EXbrook 6-3659, 342 Sunset Avenue, Venice, California.

LEARN TO DIVE for pleasure and profit. Lung— Shallow water. Commercial deep Sea Diving. Write for free information: Coastal School of Diving, 1345 — 100 Ave., Oakland, California.

TAKE YOUR WIFE TO CATALINA on a 46 foot yacht, leave Friday night, home Sunday night. Skin dive, sail, powercruise, swim, charcoal barbecue, Saturday night at Avalon. Five couples share expenses, cheaper than hotel. Many weekends still open, reserve yours now or write for more information. Johnny Logan, 342 Sunset Ave., Venice, Calif.

"BARRACUDA" THE SKIN DIVERS PADDLE BOARD—Designed and used by experts (extra buoyant) 12 ft. board; will carry all your diving equipment. Full Size plans and building instructions \$3.50. Write: Forty Fathoms Inc., Box 217, San Diego 10, Calif.

CUSTOM SUITS—Made to your measurements. Two piece suit with rolling ring, heavy gauge, salt water proof rubber, dry type (really dry). At our prices there's no reason to freeze. Full suits with neck, wrist, waist and ankle seals of soft rubber, only \$34.50. Shorty Suits \$28.50. Prices include tax and prepaid postage. Write today for information, or for quick delivery before the winter ru-h. Send check or money order to: SEA-SUIT COMPANY, 7046 Century Blvd., Paramount, California. Measurements needed are, neck, arm length, wrist, bicep, chest, waist, hips, thigh and ankle. Also shoulder, waist and crotch to floor.

BLUE ANODIZED "Protect-O-Plug." Keeps dirt and water out of regulators that fit "K" valves. Nylon attachment. At your dealer, or send 75c to 685 Center Street, Costa Mesa, Calif. MICHIGAN SKINDIVERS! ! We carry only professional type diving gear. Dealers for Aqualung, Divair, and Scott Hydro-Pak. Free instruction and fills only \$1.50. Stop in and discuss your particular diving problem. White's Skindiver Supply, 7970 G Street, Dexter, "Gateway to the Lakes," Mich.

SAN FRANCISCO DIVERS! Air refills, 70 cu. ft. \$1.75. 38 cu. ft. \$1.25. Rentals—Sales, Full Line of equipment. Marine & Ship Supply, 390 Jefferson St., San Francisco, Calif. OR. 3-2709.

RUBBER SUITS custom tailored, dry, full-length, only \$30.00. Kits available for \$19.00. Write for information and rubber samples. Aqua-Fun, Route 2, Box 509, Delano, California.

DESCO MODEL B—Like new, used twice in fresh water, \$100.00. 1954 Johnson 25 h.p. with electric starter \$335.00. Kalamazoo folding canvas boat, has had little use, 12-ft., square stern, \$75.00. Will take good aqua-lung in trade. John A. Tasche, M.D., 5208 Ocean Blvd., Sarasota, Florida.

SWAP OR TRADE—What do you have to swap or trade? Several of our readers in Australia and Italy where U. S. dollars are at a premium would like to swap equipment with you. Your advertisement in this column for sea shells, books or equipment unobtainable in this country will be answered by many of our overseas readers and your trade can be completed in no time and with ease. Personal rate for the Divers' Bulletin Board is 4c per word.

FOR SALE—Dolphin full suit, used, excellent condition, medium size. Also fins, mask. Bill Harrington, Box 500, Sheridan, Wyo.

DESCO rebreather type lung with full face mask. 1953 model just overhauled \$50. Kermit Clark, 587 Bowen Street, Oshkosh, Wis.

CORNELIUS COMPRESSORS, model 32-R1300. Pressure to 3000 PSI. Three stages, with automatic on-off pressure switch. Beautiful condition. Can be operated with A.C., D.C., or gasoline engine. All compressors are in excellent operating condition—\$65 each, ready to be mounted. Mounting bases, filter bottles, high pressure hose, gauges, yoke fittings. Two stage GE compressors, maximum pressure 2000 PSI, D. C. only, \$45.00. For price list and descriptive information, write to: Steir Enterprises, 2817 Northwood, Toledo,

LIKE NEW—Standard Aqua-Lung with reserve valve, combination filler and gauge, Arbalete spear gun, depth gauge, weight belt, mask, duck feet, snorkel, valve adapter and metal trunk. Sell for \$150.00. Write to Francis Sundlof, 4983 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif.

GENUINE AQUA-LUNG REGULATOR, big double tank air supply, and harness. All in excellent condition. Will sacrifice for \$125. 3225 N. E. 6th Street, Pompano Beach, Florida.

RUBBER RAINCOATS WANTED. Also anyone capaable or interested in making rubber garments. S. Pardak, P. O. Box 231, Newark 1, N. J.

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Sponsored by Council of Diving Clubs of California

#### **OCTOBER 22nd, 1955**

Torrance American Legion Hall 1109 Border Street—Torrance, California \$1.00 Person

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WEAR A SEASHORE COSTUME
PRIZES • COSTUMES • REFRESHMENTS

DESCO LUNG. Two 38 cu. ft. bottles. No harness or backboard. \$75.00 or trade for Half-how Aqua-Lung. Thomas Loignon, Subgroup Twe, Orange, Texas.

ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE SKIN DIVER-FREE. We want interesting pictures of divers in EDCO suits for use in our ad or for other publicity. One full year's subscription to SKIN DIVE will be sent for each picture accepted. All unused pictures will be returned promptly to senders. EDCO, 305 American Trust Co. Bidg., Berkeley 4. California.

WILL SWAP new model plane engines for Scubo parts and other diving equipment. Reason Tired of flying, wanta go skin diving. Jim Hugh Curry, Eupora, Miss.

FOR SALE—Used one day, 1 Scott Hydropa complete, 2 tanks, accessories. Bought new one month ago for \$300. Perfect condition. Secrifice \$200 or best offer. F. W. Perry, 310 East 45th Street, New York 17, New York.

SKIN DIVING IN THE FLORIDA KEYS! At its best at Pelican Cove, Islamorada, next to Theater of Sea, 72 miles south of Miami. Nea est is Miami with complete facilities. Tom Brown has air station and all rental gear, gives instructions, guides excursions in own cruiser to the coral reefs. Pelican Cove has beautiful accommodations; special rates for skin divers. Write, or telephone Matecumbe 2811.

NEW DIVAIR unit used one time. 70 cu. tt. tani filled with compressed air. \$100 cash. Illness forces me to sell. Bob Davis, 902 Speedway, Corinth, Mass.

INTRODUCTORY OFFER . . . Rubber suits. With the purchase of any full suit from the following names: Edco, Pirelli, Seal Suit, Bel Aqua, la Jolla, and Peche-Sport, a brand new pair of Cressi Rondine fins is yours free. And if purchase price exceeds \$60 I will include free Squale mask or a depth gauge, snorkel and/or a Res-Q-Pak combination. Edco Sub-Mariner \$75.00, Pirelli \$70.00, Seal Suit \$54.95, Bel-Aqua (1 or 2 pc.) \$64.95, Peche-Sport \$84.95, La Jolla \$89.95. Orders shipped prepaid anywhere in U. S. except on C.O.D. orders. Satisfaction guaranteed. Harold Schramm Diving Operations and Equipment, 1526 W. Victoria St. Chicago 26, Illinois. Telephone Ardmore 1-9346.

ATTENTION: Underwater treasure hunters, original F. L. Coffman Treasure maps, 13 years of research, 664 locations in lost, buried and sunket treasure, set of seven—\$10.00. Money back if not satisfied. Maps, P.O. Box 236, Block Island, Rhode Island.

FOR SALE . . . New Robot Camera and Plastic Case . . New Robot rewind model F2.7 36 mm. wide angle lens . . . \$320.00 value . . . Sell for \$150.00 CASH. Write: 3220 Fanwood, Long Beach 8, Calif.

#### REPAIRS

"Do It Yourself"

The Spearfisherman, in Huntington Beach, California, has set up a bench work table for his customers to patch rubber suits, grind masks to fit, and facilities for repairing all kinds of broken equipment. This store also has a booklet on the mainrenance and care of rubber suits, cost 10c.

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Retractable pin grip means faster,
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Get do wn fast, with new type, quick release web be be leave. Single grip. Range 14'. Good beginners gun. \$19.95
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DIVING MASK One piece with built-in snorkel. Real com-fort. Absolute watertightness. \$14.95

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BEL-AQUA SNORKEL Soft rubber with easy grip mouthpiece. Attachment for mask. Use for surface swim-ming with or without aqua lung. 18" long.

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GENUINE SKIN FLOATING KNIFE

6" stainless steel blade with fish scaler back. Easy grip, water-resistant cark handle. Rubberized sheath. No. 46 .... \$4.50

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Highest quality compressor, especially
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FIRST PLACE—108-lbs., 12-oz.—BLACKFISH (New York). Left to right above, Frank Stock, Kenneth Simpson and Ted Levchenko. Awards: Owen Churchill Perpetual Trophy and three replicas donated by Owen Churchill, presented by Mrs. McNabb and Owen Churchill . . . Three A.A.U. Medallions presented by Fred Beitz, S.P.A.A.U. . . . Three Helms Medallions donated by Helms Athletic Foundation . . . Owen Churchill Medal Figures presented by Harold S. Voegelin, Pres., Los Angeles Jr. Chamber of Commerce.



SECOND PLACE—99-lbs., 7-oz.—MUIRMEN (Calif.). L-R above, Bill Wilcox, Dick Jappe and Frank Hops. Awards: Three A.A.U. Medallions presented by Braven Dyer, Jr. (rear) . . . Three Owen Churchill Medal Figures presented by Ralph Davis, 1.U.S.A.

THIRD PLACE—98-lbs., 7-oz.—DOLPHINS (Calif.). L-R below, Hal Roach, Jr., who presented the three A.A.U. Medallions to Ronald Vanfleet, Paul Hoss and Pat O'Malley. They also received three Owen Churchill Medal Figures, presented by Harold S. Voegelin, President L.A. Jr. Chamber of Commerce.



22 - SEPTEMBER - SKIN DIVER

FIFTH PLACE — 43-lbs., 12-oz. — LA JOLLA SKINSTERS (Calif.). Frank Leinhaupel, Joseph Groton and Dan Stevens. No picture available.

OFFICIALS — A.A.U., Fred Beitz, Fred Rotsel. Committees, Aquo-Guards (Safety), Nisei Kelptanglers and Dolphins (Fish). A.A.U. Committee, David C. Campbell, Norman Schiff, Harold Aycock, Thomas Simpson, Pat O'Malley and Ralph

# NAT N SPEARFH

CATALINA ISD



FOURTH PLACE—56-lbs., 2-oz.—MONTEREY SEA OTTEK (Calif.). Roy Hattori, Jerry Bastian and George Fraley.



SIXTH PLACE — 39-lbs. — FORT LAUDERDALE DIVEK (Florida). Richard Smith, Henri Trudeux and Ermes Harrell.

PRE-CONTEST briefing being held for all teams on the Stella Polaris by the officials. Contest lasted four hours. —Photo by Johnie Carroll



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# TNAL UNDERWATER REHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

ISD ISTHMUS, CALIFORNIA - JULY 31, 1955

sored by Owen Churchill with the Cooperation of the Internal Underwater Spearfishing Association and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Meet Under Sanction of the A.A.U.

Six achts assembled at the west buoy in the 1sthmus early on the morning of July 3 and were greeted by what might he described as the beautiful Catalina weather . . . These yachts brought from the mainland six teams of underwater spearfishermen, the officials for the meet, the safety committee "Aqua-Guards." the press and other interested persons. One of these ships, the Maray, commanded by Gustav Dalla Valle and skippered by Mart Toggweiler, was filled to overflowing with many of the wives of the con-

EA OTTER

After the briefing of divers and boat handlers by Chairman Ralph Davis the starting gun was fired and the contestants took to the water, with each team going a different direction. At this time the press representatives and the officials wished them all luck and then retired to the fried chicken box lunches furnished by the sponsors.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS—the day held many . . . the Maray, loaded with feminine pulchritude, cruising back and forth with much arm waving . . . the Flying Hoss, the official safety and press runabout, skittering from one team to the other with press photogs and Aqua-Guards . . . Mrs. McNabb, a guest on the Stella Polaris, string fishing from the bow (and catching fish, too) . . . Frank Rutherford, plus or minus 400 pounds of press photographer, swimming around with mask and fins causing tidal waves with each stroke . . . Paul Calvert, with lung, rubber suit and camera, taking underwater pictures . . . Hal Roach, Jr. and family cruising around the area with one of the launches off the Stella Polaris.

A major highlight of the day was the time spent waiting for the official results after the weighing of all the catches . . . Ralph Davis minus a loudspeaker trying



FRANK HOPS (Muirmen) surfaces with one of his fish. Winner of the Individual Aggregate Award with 53-lbs., 3-oz. to receive the Nelson Mathison Award presented by Dr. Nelson E. Mathison.

-Photo by Frank Rutherford



OWEN CHURCHILL watches the weighing from behin the trophy table. If the success of this meet could be credited to one individual Mr. Churchill would be amon



FRANK LEINHAUPEL (La Jolla Skinsters) receive the Mel Fisher Award from Ralph Davis for the Individual Largest Single Catch—7-lb., 8-oz. Sheepshead.

STRAY KITTEN was the object of much attention by Ken Simpson of the Blackflish when he covered it slowly devouring his catch before the we ing. Kitten came back later for a feast, after weighing that is.

-Photo by Frank Rutherford



(Continued on Page 26)

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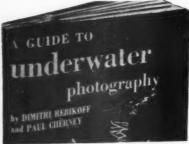
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24 - SEPTEMBER - SKIN DIVER

An underwater man comments on . .

### DIVING THEORY

By RORY PAGE

(Questions & Answers)

The question chosen this month is. "the selection of fins." Questions have been asked such as, "which is the fastest and most powerful fin?"; "what in a fin design should a person look for?' and "what fin will give the user the best and longest wear?"

This question of fin selection is a controversial one. There are many types, shapes, and sizes. Each one having its own good and bad points. I will only endeavor to point out some of the things for the user to look for in a fin selection.

First of all fit is probably the most important, regardless of the situation demand. A fin should fit the foot snugly, yet be loose enough not to cause cramp or stop circulation. This does not mean you should buy a fin that fits the naked foot snugly and then wear socks or a suit and expect the fins to fit just as comfortably. If you plan on wearing socks or a suit underneath your fins, take the socks or suit with you when you select the fin fit. Here is where the adjustable fin comes in handy. The adjustable fin can be taken in or let out to fit a varying condition, however, if you can afford two sets of the non-adjustable fin for this condition, you will find a wider selection to choose from.

I think the next step in selection is the rigidity and size of the fins. Some users purchase fins only as a swimming aid. while others select them for underwater use alone. If you are a swimmer you know that it is very important for the swimmer to be able to relax while swimming. If a swimmer has on a giant fin which is very rigid, he will not be able to swim as long a period of time because the size and rigidity of the fin and the exertion it takes to operate them, would not enable the swimmer to relax. With this thought in mind, the fin selection for the swimmer should be a fin of small size with an excess amount of flexibility. This soft and pliable fin will blend in with the muscles of the swimmer. It will not chafe or cramp, allowing long periods of use without tiring the user.

The skin divers needs presents a slightly different problem. His underwater time is of short duration, and lots of power and speed is his greatest fin requirement. Therefore, with this thought in mind, we can easily see a larger, more rigid fin should be his choice. The thing to look out for here, is that fins can become too large and too rigid. A small person cannot use a giant size rigid fin because it may tire him out too much even for short periods of use. The big fellows, however, can han-

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dle them without too much excessive energy being used. So moderacy must be the watch word.

For the man who wants to dive and swim too, the answer here, is to try and strike a happy medium between the two. Taking into consideration the swimmer and the diver, we see that a medium size fin of medium rigidity will give him a tolerable swimming time and fair to good underwater performance as well.

The design of fin rigidity with minimum flexibility, has been improved in the newer models of most manufacturers, by the replacement of fin ribs. The importance of fin ribs has been recognized by many of them in contributing to the propulsion the fin offers to the user. This can be recognized by a soft shoe and a slightly harder fin side body. which is partly due to the rib placement. The propulsion the kick creates is mostly due to the downward motion of the foot. related through the fin which in turn, travels the water off the tip end of the fin. Without the placement of ribs on the sides of the fin, some of the forward propulsion would be lost, due to the water going off the sides of the fin in-stead of the tip end. Thus the ribs form a trough for the water to pass through, as well as adding a fore and aft rigidity. For these reasons, it is my opinion, the rib type of fin holds more advantage to the user.

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Engineered with the help of expert skin divers. Hodgman Rubber Company's new Skin Diver Flote is a valuable addition to the equipment of all members of this fast-growing fraternity of sportsmen. An oval viewing hole at the head end of flote gives the diver ample freedom of head movement while wearing face mask and snorkel. Open oval at other end of flote is specially designed to allow for easy flipper action.

The outer partitions of the Hodgman Skin Diver Flote are of larger diameter to stabilize the flote and prevent rolling. Strong safety rope at head end is attached through 9 grommets. The lock-type metal air valve is vulcanized into the body material for greater safety. All seams are ruggedly reinforced, and the inner partitions have Hodgman's famous "I-Beam" construction for maximum strength.



NO MORE TIRING, surface swims back to your point of entry, with heavy, empty tanks is the promise of Mar-Mac Industries if you will use their new SeAir gauge on your lung equipment. This gauge continually shows the diver, underwater, exactly how much air he has left, enabling him to plan his dive so that he can exhaust his air near his point of entry. The unit consists of a submersible air gauge, hose and an "O" ring assembly which fits most lungs using standard medical valves and yokes. The gauge straps to your chest harness. The unit can be used in place of a reserve valve on spare bottles. Glen Minard, San Francisco skin diving in-structor, tested the gauge recently off Carmel. He says that it takes a lot of work out of skin diving by eliminating surface swins back.



A boon to all underwater spearfishermen is the new bayonet footloader. It was designed by Jerry Huth and Sandy Downs to fit all standard and deluxe rubber powered guns. Its purpose is three fold:

1. Carried as a spear weapon to ward off disturbing rays, shark, fish, it gives the underwater spearfisherman protection at all times. 2. The spear head is detachable and may serve as extra head for hunting and meets, as well as for protection. 3. Serves as footloader for easier underwater loading of high power rubber spearguns. It is made of cast aluminum with water resistant finish and bronze fittings. It weighs only 6 oz.

The new Bayonet Footloader is manufactured especially for Huth Skin Diver Co., Inc.

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#### **NATIONALS**

(Continued from Page 23)
to announce the results . . . the kitten that
somehow strayed into the middle of the
total catch . . . the happy smiles and
shouts of the winners . . . and the determined chins of the five other teams, each
vowing that next year will tell a different
story.

This event climaxed underwater's pean-fishing competitions for 1955, the trams and individuals that competed this day were selected as champions from heir respective regions and they are still champions... champions at home and on the national scene because they did compete with other regional champions. The Skin Diver is happy to have had a small part in bringing these teams together and we offer our congratulations to the winners and to the Skinsters, the Sea Otter the Fort Lauderdale Divers, the Dolphin and the Muirmen.

Special thanks are given to all competing Regional Champion Teams. Regional Associations, Association Chairmen and all cooperating organizations and individuals for their help in successfully staging the 1955 National Underwater Spearfishing Championship.

Pat O'Malley and Owen Churchill deserve special credit for the handling of the myriad details connected with a Ship Based Underwater Spearfishing Championship.

Sponsor credit is given by the New York Blackfish and the Ft. Lauderdale Divers to Voit Rubber Corporation. and Owen Churchill, Hal-Steck Sales, Div N' Surf, Spearfisherman.

#### LAKE TAHOE TESTED BY COASTAL DIVERS

By CHUCK OVERFELT

QUICK lastex, #381.

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How would you like to dive in water with 80 feet visibility, no surf, no surge, no urchins, and good to the last drop? There were a couple of drawbacks of course; barren bottom and 41 degree temperatures.

Fourth of July found a group of us swimming in Emerald Bay at beautiful Lake Tahoe, trying out Bill Hails' new Kodak Cine Special rigged for underwater. We did most of our diving from the small islet in the bay and it was ideal for movie shots of divers since you could step off the edge into 60 feet of clear and calm water and you had a white cliff for a background.

While there we discovered that numerous groups of divers from Nevada make use of the lake and so we were not a novelty. Tahoe was quite a change from our usual haunts but I still prefer the surf, surge, urchins, and oftimes dirty water found off California's shore.

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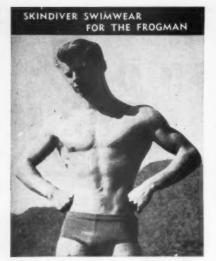
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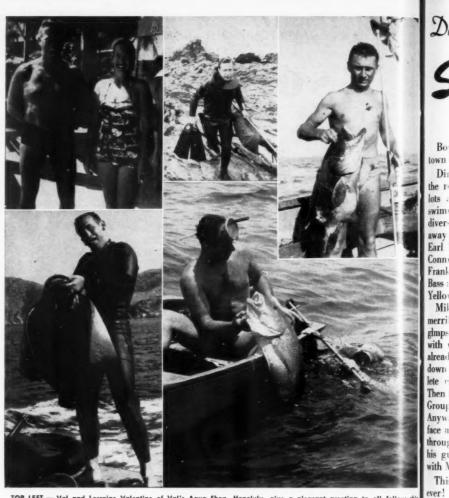
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TOP LEFT — Val and Lorraine Valentine of Val's Aqua Shop, Honolulu, give a pleasant greeting to all fellow skin divers. Photo by J. C. Harkness. TOP CENTER—Chuck Walker formerly of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and now living in Southern California, has an extreme determined look as he enters the water off Palos Verdes, Calif. TOP RIGHT—Guida Moggi of Milano, Italy, was a recent visitor of U. S. underwater men. He enjoyed seeing the many different types of equipment we use. LOWER LEFT—Jim Prescott of the North American Sea Sabres and the Ray that attacked him, see club report on Paga 36. LOWER RIGHT—Mazardian, Mexico, provided first class underwater adventure for Gerry Huth (in boat) and Bud Bullack. Here a 58-lb. red snapper has just been boated by Bud. Water temperalum

# 1955 Athlete of the Year

The National Underwater Spearfishing Championships, successfully founded in 1950 by the International Underwater Spearfishing Association with the cooperation of the A.A.U., Helms Athletic foundation and five Southern California skin diving clubs, has produced three outstanding amateur Underwater Spearfishing Athletes of the Year. In 1952 Dr. Mathison received the Helms Award and Arthur Pinder of Florida received the award in 1953. Pat O'Malley, of the Dolphin Club, received the coveted award for the year 1954.

The outstanding individual performance at Club, inter-club, state and regional underwater spearfishing championships has been turned in by a team member of the runners up in the National Championships.

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The recipient of the Helms Award for Athlete of The Year does not necessarily have to compete at the National Underwater Spearfishing Championships. If his club, inter-club, state and regional championships performance is tops, he may exceed all competitors in Nationals

All regional organizations and underwater spearfishing clubs are invited to submit the competitive records of their outstanding underwater spearfishermen after a poll among their members, to Helms Hall, 8760 Venice Blvd., Los And geles 34. California as soon as possible before November 15, 1955.

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE OF THE I.U.S.A.

# Diving Around ...

# San Diego

By JIM MERTEN

Boy, what spearfishing in this border town during the past month!

Directly off Alligator Point, which is the reef in front of the La Jolla Cove, lots and lots of big fish are leisurely swimming nonchalantly among the skin divers. Here are a few that didn't get away: Skipper Price, a 10-lb. Corbina; Earl Murray, a 185-lb. Black Sea Bass; Connie Limbaugh, a 30-lb. Halibut; and Frank Leinhaupel, a 210-lb. Black Sea Bass and a 38-lb. possible World's record Yellowtail.

Mike Carnohan was swimming along merrily through the kelp when he glmpsed a juicy Black Grouper. Mike, with visions of this choice table morsel already hanging in his smokehouse, dove down and plunked the spear of his arba-lete clear through its big old tummy. Then the fun was on: first Mike had Mr. Grouper; then Mr. Grouper had Mike. Anyway, Mike rassled his fish to the surface and was just about to run his hand through its gills when the line parted on his gun and away swam Mr. Grouper with Mike's spear.

This is not the end of the story, however! As Jim Jordan was wandering about in the same area an hour later he saw Mr. Grouper in about 40-feet of water. Jim dove down and put another spear in the fish, brought him in and found that he tipped the scales at 90 lbs. Later that same afternoon, Jim got another Grouper weighing 145 lbs. P.S. My refrigerator is full of smoked fish!

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The combined efforts of three divers, Mike Pretzer, Marty Compton, and Jim National Cornelius landed a 50-lb. Leopard Shark off the La Jolla Shores beach recently.

> The clubs here and the San Diego Council of Diving Clubs are certainly against the 6-inch rule for fish in spearfishing contests. Since none of us would shoot these when spearfishing, why shoot them in a contest. Let's bring the minimum weight requirment up to 3 lbs.

Those wishing to enroll in the City of San Diego Aqua Lung Instruction courses, call the Aquatics office, at HU 3-3003. Those with underwater Los And breathing units should by all means take this course. The city has been kind enough to donate city pools for our needs so let's take advantage; it may save a life; it may be yours. >=



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When more than 5 Decals are desired, state number you wish and include 20c for each additional decal.

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# **New York City** Skin Diving and Scuba Clinic Held

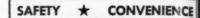
By HAROLD L. KISTLER

A Skin Diving and Scuba Clinic was held at the West Side Y.M.C.A., 5 West 63rd Street, New York City on July 20th. The program was introduced by Harold Kistler, Director of Physical Education, who announced the inclusion of Scuba in the "Y" 's extensive program of swimming skills. He pointed out the exhiliration and the fascination of diving and Scuba as well as some of the dangers. He called to the attention of the one hundred enthusiasts witnessing the demonstration the advantages of practice in a clear water pool and the need for thorough familiarity with the equipment before venturing the frontiers of deeper diving.

A. F. Vander Kogel, of Abercombie and Fitch, an experienced Scuba enthusiast of many years, was the narrator for the clinic. "Al" or "Mr. Van." as he is affectionately known, has been diving since 1937, is the creator of special equipment and recently wrote "Underwater Sport.

The clinic presentation included step by step process-how to put on flippers, masks, snorkels, to emergency sharing of lung, ditching equipment and exchanging equipment underwater. Participants in the demonstration were members of the Long Island Dolphins, and Stephan Tjaarda, the Aquatic Director of the West Side "Y."

The Dolphins sharing in the program included "Dick" Ferg, who set a record in the New York Sportsman Show, his Scuba team mate the lovely Diana Young, Jerry Roseliberg and Milton Gruen. Stephan Tjaarda announced plans to enroll Scuba enthusiasts in courses starting immediately and to be conducted at regular intervals throughout the winter. Skin Diving and Scuba instruction will have a definite part in the total Swimming Program which includes teaching of all swimming skills. "Steph" was formerly Aquatic Director of the Hartford YMCA, and was the pioneer in the East in conducting mass courses in Skin Diving and Scuba. -





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This organization will bring back to the United States one of the last fourmasted square-riggers, more than threehundred feet in length to be used for its floating museum treasure ship, and will be equipped to visit every port of the country — bringing to the schools and general public an educational, scientific. adventurous historical ship entirely exhibiting sensational presentations of diving, treasure and underwater exploration - the complete story of treasure of the past, the present, and the future, in all its phases. In addition, after a tour of several years, the ship will undertake the largest and most scientific treasure expedition ever contemplated, to the Caribbean, where, in addition to the salvage operations, the first authenticated largescale technicolor motion picture of documentary nature will be filmed.

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Two Deep Sea Wanderers off the coast of 
Morozaki with Japanese 
guides and crew. Shown 
here are George Casey 
in the yachting cap and 
Bob Bourgault with 
mask. —Photo by



On the Pacific . . .

# DEEP SEA WANDERS By BOB BOURGAULT

During these past two months we "Wanderers" have been fortunate, inasmuch as we've dived at most of the major localities here on Japan's East Coast, including Kobe, Nagova, Morozaki, Havama, Misaki, Joga-Shima and Abora-Thubo. We were pleased to have found ourselves wrong about our early assumptions concerning the diving conditions to be encountered here. As the ship progressed northward along its Port Hopping cruise, water visibility and abundance of marine life increased until there was little doubt that Japan could be favorably compared with many of the "top" diving localities we'd found elsewhere.

Amongst the ever interesting and colorful tropical fish that abound here, we've encountered several "Rainbow Parrot fish" which are believed rare in this area. These differ from the Hawaiian valiety, in that the beak or mouth is smalle, and less bird-like. Moray eels are abundant and seem to increase in size proportionally with water depth. As previously reported by several others, they are not found to be very aggressive though they prove to be strong and vicious fighters once speared or otherwise annoyed.

Oct

gies

Of possible interest to the scientific minded, is our recent trip to Tokyo where we spent several hours visiting the "Tokai Regional Fisheries Research Laboratory." Dr. T. Abe, who is completing a comprehensive study on Pacific flying fish, proved invaluable as a guide to technical books on marine biology available here in Japan. He further introduced us to Dr. Ino's assistants who showed us his collection of abalone specimens. Upon Dr. Abe's recommendation we paused in our return trip to see the motion picture "Blue Continent" and enjoyed it immensely.

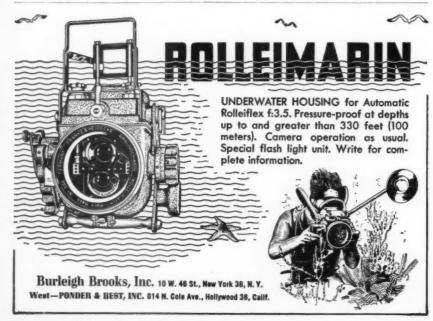
California . . .

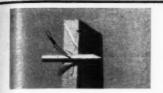
# VENTURA KELP KATS By PHIL MANGUM

On the 4th of July the Kats put on a skin diving exhibition at the end of the Ventura pier. Several hundred visitors enjoyed the two hour demonstration which was highlighted by the rescue and salvage of an overturned outboard by Donn Younce, Bill Conner, and Don Spencer. Over seventy pounds of starfish conches, sea urchins, etc. were dispensed to souvenir hunters. The local paper gave us a nice spread with pictures the following day.

A contest using modified Laguna rules is scheduled for early August. Trophies will go to the biggest catch by pounds, the largest catch by size, and the largest ab-

A trip to the Channel Islands is being scheduled soon with the prime target—sea bass! That is, if Donn Younce can tear himself away from that seven fool Blue Shark he is going steady with.





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Texas . . .

#### CREATURES SKIN DIVING CLUB By WALTER STEEN

The Creatures held their semi-annual election of officers July 6th at the regul larly scheduled Wednesday night meet. ing on Gary Air Force Base. The club is enjoying quite a bit of activity during the summer months. Three members Jacobs, Glass and Steen spent the July 4th weekend at Port Aransas, Texas Members John Hinton and Jerry Soren sen came down Sunday. The water was choppy and murky all weekend, but we managed to log a couple of hours be tween tides. The catch of Saturda was ervsta almost thirty pounds of sheepshead and snapper, with top honors going to Sonny Glass for his nine pound sheepshead.

One of our more prominent members. Bill Harbeck, has recently returned from his vacation. He visited his folks in Southern California and, of course, spent a lot of time diving in the cool Pacific

Three of the officers are planning a two week trip to Guaymas, Mexico. Need I state the purpose? July 31st is the departure date and we really look forward to having a ball. Look for some details in our next report. \*\*



California

#### THE AQUA-KNIGHTS

By ALLEN BROWN In the last couple of months, we've had only enough time for a few one-day trips. One day, on recommendation from one member, some of us tried a spot in South Laguna which has great possibilities. A lot of pan-size fish were seen and missed, and I pulled out a couple of 20-pound rays.

We have tentative plans for trips to Catalina and Punta Banda, but that's about all to now.

The Aqua-Knights have slowed down considerably, but we hope to rebuild our original size and activity. If there are any unattached skin divers in the San Gabriel Valley interested in our club we would like to get together. We have snorke meetings twice a month. Call me at Atwater 5-6264, or Bob Feltham, President dent. Atwater 7-4153. -

34 - SEPTEMBER - SKIN DIVER

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#### THE EPISKOPI SHUFTYSCOPERS

By EDWARD M. WARRICK

Greetings to American Skin Divers he regulation this Branch of the Cyprus District Sub Aqua Club, tucked away in the northeast corner of the sunny Mediter-

Formed in 1954 we have more than thirty active members who drive to our seacoast each weekend to spend a day lazing on the surface or diving with harpoons hunting the varied fish to be found in the-e waters.

The sea around this island is mostly rda was crystal clear and normally calm, being head and warm enough for swimming throughout the year. Apart from colorful fish, octopus and plants to be seen on the sea bed men bers, and a nongst the rocks there are Roman ned from and Creek ruins to be explored, ancient folks in harbor sites to be traced and sunken galrse, spent leys to be found.

An underwater expedition from England is on the south coast here this sumanning a mer in the area of Salamis and are findico. Need ing much of interest in the ancient city s the determinant there which was covered by the sea after forward an earthquake 1500 years ago. Some boys details in from this branch have worked with the Expedition and have learned the use of aqua-lungs and underwater cameras.

> Some copies of The Skin Diver have been received and more would be welcome. They are worth their weight in gold here and are passed from hand to

hand until unreadable.

#### "TOKYO OASIS DIVERS"

By W. G. HICKS

The club has made many trips to both Zushi and Manazuru. Plentiful small fish were found in both places. If one is careful one can see larger fish feeding and hiding in deeper water.

We were paid a visit by Jim Oetzel this past month. We enjoyed his company and his photos of catches made by him and others. We guided him to the Zushi spot and Jim found the fish hiding under the vegetation. He speared two nice fish as great which he donated to a Japanese man on shore. We hope he and others will visit us again and be our guests for a diving

This past Saturday, 16th July, another member and myself looked into the hiding places that Jim discovered. We saw a ed down two-foot fish and many others feeding. build our however our aim was bad and we came here are back "empty handed." Sure wish Jim had been with us using his Arbalete.

Thus far all our members are using We have snorkels only in their diving. Several I me a members are in the process of building m, I'resi their own underwater units. So we have hopes of snaring those "big fish" yet.

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SKIN DIVER - SEPTEMBER - 35

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California . .

#### NORTH AMERICAN "SEA SABRES"

By BOB RETHERFORD

Catalina Island, July 24, 1955.- After a good catch of bass, sheepshead, opal eve. cabezone, and abalone, we moved: mile down the coast and found a spot ful of bat rays. I counted eighteen that ranged in size from 20- to 180-pounds One of our members, Doug Buckler shot a fifty pounder and we obtained some good color movies of this operation. After that, Jim Prescott shot seventy pound ray and the action real started. It circled and charged right a Jim. just missing him, then dove to the bottom stirring up the sand, and su denly skyrocketed straight up completel clearing the surface. It landed on Pres cott's head knocking his face plate of

Luckily Jim managed to free himse and retrieve his mask in time to doda another charge. This time the ray ide swiped his shoulder and the barb ton open his wet suit. It then made four mor infuriated charges before it tired an gave up. As we hauled it aboard it starte giving birth to about forty live babie and there were baby rays swimming a over the place. Perhaps this explains the fighting and charging we witnessed, we are sure that this ray was makin

California . . .

deliberate attacks.

#### THE KELP WORM

By LOYD BOLLIN

This is the first report of the Kel Worms to the Skin Diver and we as looking forward to taking part in the ex change of information and diving tale with the other clubs who report to ou MARSH

The Kelp Worms skin diving club sponsored by the Northrop Recreation Club. Most of the members are employed liforn of Northrop Aircraft. Inc. in Hawthorn California. Club membership has ave aged approximately forty-five member

for the past three years.

Club owned equipment includes tw Altho aqua-lungs, an underwater camera, an aqua-lungs, an underwater camera, an g gro such services as CO<sub>2</sub> for our spear gump is r Most of the members have adhered to the too "Do-It-Yourself" spirit with a variety of beg home-made rubber suits, guns made fro De al fire extinguishers, underwater came b and cases, and other equipment.

The quarterly award trophy werrivin to Kelp Worm commissioner Georgel Fis Branch, who cinched it with a 21 arbars pound sheepshead caught off PaleM. al

For any information concerning of cious club write: George Branch, 503 W. 1427 ils ar St., Hawthorne.

36 - SEPTEMBER - SKIN DIVER

79 lbs. complete weight.

NORM

OTE to Out MARSH of the Pacific Grove Looney Gooneys approaches photographer Julius Siddon near the wreck of the "Valiant" Catalina Island, California. The ship was inspected and photographed by the club members "to the roar of compessed air grunts."

—Photo Copyright by Julius G. Siddon

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#### **PACIFIC GROVE** LOONEY GOONEYS

By WAYNE V. DYE and CHUCK OVERFELT

cludes tw Although our Monterey Peninsula divtmera, and grounds are excellent, whenever a spear gump is mentioned, fins are hastily stuffed thered to ith toothbrushes, can openers, etc. The

variety & begins . . . made fro De and Sydney Marsh, Julius Siddon, er came b and Madelain McCurdy and Wayne re are Catalina bound for a week. ophy we riving in Los Angeles we are told by er Georde Fisher of a sunken ship off Santa th a 21 arbara Island. Next morning at 3:30 off Pal M. aboard the "J.C." we leave to invesate. Escorted by squadrons of suserning ocious sea lions we search for bronze BW. 142 mils amid the strewn hardware of the p. No luck!

Arriving at Avalon, we stagger like donkeys to the beach nearest the sunken "Valiant." Under the load of full equipment (flash-lites, depth gauges, aqualungs, three automatically pressurized cameras. Se-Air gauges) we flop gratefully into the sea.

Snorkling out to the buoy and diving day after day, we explored and photographed the interior of the ship, which sits upright at 20 fathoms.

Bath-tubs, tile floors, port-holes intact with glass were inspected to the roar of compressed air grunts. The old ship trickled streams of bubbles from every seam. Sydney Marsh became another club woman to reach 20 fathoms when she visited the sea floor at the starboard bow. Something new for us was a night dive in phosphorescent waters. Mighty eerie! ×



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By F. J. MORCERF After
Our club was organized last fall and anction
to date has the first of what we expended to be a long list of accomplishment ducted. under its belt.

Twenty-five members have complete pected a fifteen-week course in endurance, up are and derwater safety, and skin diving tech rying niques. In addition, one hour of diving ng. W lung time was logged by each using serunity eral kinds of apparatus.

In March we staged an exhibit it the gratule Schenectady Hobby Show. Judging by horous the crowds, ours was one of the met fas also for cinating exhibits of the show. A diver the went down into a five-foot tank every Man hour and demonstrated different quip ing the ment including one with a built-in mic pursuit rophone connected to a loudspeaker sys groupe tem. Tremendous interest in the sport very was evidenced by the many inquiries brough made at our booth.

Our first outing to the cool, clear sheeps waters of Lake George was a great suc working cess. About thirty-five members met all doesn't Pilot Knob there and explored the hed. Los out of the bottom. A similar event is was he being planned now in another nearby attends venin

At present, our club is unofficially sarted connected with the Schenectady YMCA home Next winter the membership will vol was spe Next winter the membership will vot was specto affiliate or to become fully independ pleted of A new and more descriptive club his "olcussed.

California . . .

SEA LANCER Califor By BILL ANDERSO

Our trip for June was to Santa Bar bara Island. We left Santa Monica under bara Island. We left Santa Monica under the perfect sea and weather conditions. But living as we got farther off shore we entered and Ca a bank of high fog and a pronounced he moswell developed. When we reached the hitteen diving areas were to hitteen diving areas were to be a sea of the conditions swell developed. When we reached undirectisland the better diving areas were too a two dexposed to be dived. And the only other places were populated with thousands of Sheeps sea lions. In fact one could barely see the night board dent, John Hall, into the water as a severed guinea pig to test the sea lion reaction After 1 After he survived the rest of us went it to find a scarcity of fish and murk pened some v a little water. The largest fish taken was a

11-pound sheepshead by Bill Barada.

The trip for July was to Anacap back a Island. The weather was cloudy off-hor but the water was glassy calm, and the model of the state o trip over took only fifty minutes. There of our was an abundance of three to five pour lock a things interest to kee to me state of the fish, and enough 10 pounders to kee lom. S things interesting, John Hall and Drahitty-Schreiber limited on really big abs. John got an eight and a half inch pink ab to plumb

make a club record. \*\*

DY "Y California . . .

G CLU

DERSO anta Ba ica unde

LOS BUZOS By ALAN DRAY

MORCER After our first try in organized A.A.U. st fall and anctioned competition we find we have we expect earned much as to how a meet is con-plishment lucted, the most satisfactory gun and gear to use, how one must dive, the ex-completed bested type catch, and that rubber suits rance, un are a necessity. We'll be back next year ving tech rying and hope to make a better showof livinging. We would like to take this oppor-using ser unity to thank the Aqua-guards who worked the Laguna Beach meet and conibit at the gratulate them on their efficiency and adging by boroughness in regards to safety and emont fas also for their assistance both in and out. A diverof the water.

ank every Many of our members have been work-

ent quiping the kelp beds off La Jolla lately in ilt-ir mic pursuit of yellowtail, white sea bass, eaker sys grouper, and barracuda. All have proved the sportery illusive, although John Jaynes inquiries brought in a 17-pound white sea bass. Dean Erwine has taken some large pool, clear sheepshead recently, too. We're still great suc working the kelp and hoping, but it rs met a blesn't take long to get bored out there. rs met a doesn't take long to get bored out there. the heat Los Buzos mid-summer beach party event is was held a few nights back with an er nearby attendance of over 25 people. As the evening wore on a bull session naturally nofficially started and the topic quickly switched to y YMCA nome made rubber guns. John Jaynes will vot was sporting his latest which he had com-independ pleted only that morning, it was already stive club his "old gun" as he had started a new be dispine employing new ideas and experince gained in making five of these

NCER California . . .

SEA ANGELS By ED HOLBERT

ica unda tions. But the last two months have found us diving at Corona del Mar, Palos Verdes, and Catalina, with Catalina furnishing the most luck. July the fourth found thirteen of our members at Catalina for were to were to atwo day dive. Our first day proved very atwo day dive. Our first day proved very sood spearfishing with sixteen nice bass, sheepshead, etc. taken. However that hight we left our catch hanging overters as reaction at the severed rope dangling in the breeze, swent is d murk some varmint made a good catch for just was a little swimming and a knife. July the was a little swimming and a knife. July the birtieth found twenty of our members hirtieth found twenty of our members hack at Catalina. As most of our members hack at Catalina. As most of our members now have lungs we had some very good catches from deep under. Several of our lung divers went down at Ship Rock and found everything but the bottom. Sheepshead in the twenty-five and thirty-five pound class were sighted but hone were landed. Them darn fish are plumb smart. Now we know how they got so darned big.

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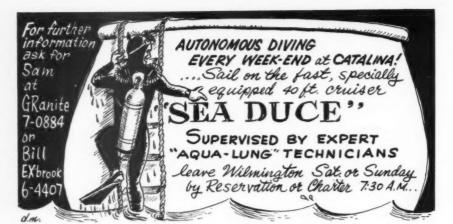
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**CRESTVIEW** 

Illinois . . .

#### Indian CHICAGO AQUA VENTURER

By ROBERT M. HIL

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The last week of June and the first of very e July found President Dr. Raymond Mar and th cus and Vice President Hank Banaski o bility our club, along with their wives, spend We di ing their vacation in Florida. Ray and which Hank visited most of the Keys letween which Largo and Vaca, using Miami Beach as We a base. They reported the fish to be a few sparse in a majority of places. They dove it is a and were amazed at the wonderful under couldn water scenery at the Keys. On the las quite a day of their stay they made a trip to We had Sombrero Reef just off Vaca Kry. My tion of brother Art and I were also in Miam fish in Beach on vacation, so we met the night And th before and arranged to go with them. Ition.

We obtained an inboard motor boa from Norman Beaulieu's Florida Skin here's Divers establishment, along with two as Gre guides and sailed to the reef. A large wave unexpectedly swamped the boat and then the anchor rope was cut by Maybe coral. Last of all the boat drifted onto a reef. As we frantically tried to salvage our diving gear, a net was lowered from Califor the lighthouse on the reef. We put our gear into the net and swam to the light house just in time. We watched the box being pounded against the coral by the exceptionally rough waves.

Later, Norman, who had been notified ing but of our misfortune by the Coast Guard ab-dive showed up with a chartered fishing boat of this This also was damaged in the attempt to from salvage Norm's boat. In fact, the fishing Sheeps boat was about to signal for help couple of times, as water rushed in Spotfin through a split in the stern which was the Ju caused by the attempted rescue. fish, ar

Upon reaching shore, Dr. Ray March remarked, "Well, I can say one thing The Florida Skin Diver will even sini their boat to please a customer."

The next day Ray Marcus and Hani and his Banaski had to return to Marathon 1 pick up some equipment which was let at the lighthouse. On that same day At bre got and I, along with Ed Morlan, Eugen Melzer and Bob Burkhead, also club of Jul points Catche members who had just arrived in Florida were to leave on the schooner White Swan for a cruise to the Bahama Islands attest to

Ray Marcus was delayed and Captain Few Foster of the White Swan couldn't will by som any longer as he was overdue. The par Ron M sengers were eager to go, so Art and I s July. A sengers were eager to go, so All and at one a result landed in the Bahamas minutatione a result landed in the Bahamas minutatione shoes, billfolds, diving knife, rescu Blair S pack, snorkle, camera and other mine about items.

Indiana . . . ICAGO

**TURER** 

M. HIL

Brach as

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a Islands attest to.

#### INDIANA **AQUA LUNGERS** By ROBERT HANSEN

"Our trip to Greenbay in July was he first of very enjoyable. The fish were abundant ond Mar and the water was wonderful, with visianaskid bility about 30 feet and really warm. es. spend We did most of our diving on a reef Ray and which surrounds the sister Islands, of s Letween which we reached by motor boat.

We entered by foot from the shore sh to be a few times but with great difficulty as They dow it is awful rocky and my tender feet ful under couldn't take it. Dick Oglesby also had the last quite a time, using his arbalete as a cane. a trip to We had a wonderful time, with the excep-Key. Motion of Dick losing his spear shaft with in Miam fish intact, and only two days to spend. the night And thanks again to Eric for the invitah them. tion

We're planning a trip to upper Michigan around Manistee and Onekama so here's hoping the water is just as clear as Greenbay.

Would like to hear from the clubs in Michigan, Wisconsin and also Indiana. Maybe we can get together sometime. \*\*

#### **NEWPORT HARBOR** SUB-MARINERS

By ALAN WHITE

One Sub-Mariner who believes in mixing business with pleasure is commercial ab-diver Ted Pederson. Recent examples ning boal of this are from Catalina waters: a vase from the "Valiant", and a 12-pound he fishin Sheepshead.

Other fish that swim no more: a 7-lb. Spotfin Croaker, giving Dick Mounteney which was the July trophy for the largest edible fish, and a 61/2-lb. Sheepshead, winning the June trophy for Johnny Miller.

The last two weeks in June saw Bob Tucker on a fishing trip to Guaymas. The diving there was fabulous, with Grouper, Yellowtail, and Cabrillo bass giving Bob and Ham and his brother plenty to shoot at. Bob's biggest was 35-lbs.

Bob Clark, Ham Crum, and Bob Bare day At bre got in some good diving the weekend of July 4th Ensenada, Mexico and points southward was the territory. points southward the property of the points of the points southward the points so the points

d Captair Few fish but much talk was enjoyed ldn't wal by some of the older club members when The pa Ron Merker came home on furlough in t and Is July. An impromptu beach meet was held nas minu at one of Ron's favorite spots. John and e, rescu Joan Miller, Bill Silzle, Bill Stone and her minu Blair Smith were present to swap stories about "bass that never got away." District of Columbia . .

#### THE SUB-COMMITTEE By JOHN SCOFIELD

The nation's capital inaugurated its first skin and SCUBA-diving group early in July, when some 30 enthusiasts organized as The Sub-Committee of Washington, D.C. Initial impetus stemmed from a five-week course sponsored by the city's Central YMCA; both skin diving and use of self-centered breathing gear was featured. Classes were held in the Y's indoor pool until a measure of confidence was acquired, when operations were moved to a near by quarry, with some 80-feet of reasonably clear (but mighty cold) water, and to the western shore of Chesapeake Bay, where the water is warmer, but murky.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of YMCA physical director Bernard Empleton and aquatic director Wallace Hagerhorst, a representative sample of underwater gear was available for class use; graduates finished the course with at least some knowledge of Aqua-Lung, Scott Hydro-Pak, Northill, and Divair.

Interested persons in the Washington area should contact Sub-Committee president Bill Childs, 2516 East Place, Georgetown, Washington, D.C. DUpont 7-4257.

The Sub-Committee would welcome contacts with clubs in the Virginia-Maryland-New Jersey area for possible joint outings, and with clubs anywhere for the exchange of ideas and information.

California . . .

#### **AQUA-ADDICTS** By DON WOOD

The Aqua-Addicts of San Luis Obispo and surrounding area met recently to elect officers and to adopt by-laws. Our Club is comprised of twenty men and women, all actively participating.

Our area is one of the few virtually untouched areas for skin diving in California. The abs around here average 9-inches. Fish are abundant, too. Our waters require rubber suits, but tend to warm up during the winter months.

Our Club is sponsoring a competitive dive on Sunday, September 2nd at Morro Rock in Morro Bay, California. Registration for divers closes that day at 11:00 a.m. as there is a low tide at noon. There will be a nominal registration fee of \$1.00 to each competing diver.

Five trophies will be given, along with other prizes including a spring gun and other diving equipment, and sundry other items and services.

We have extended invitations to several clubs around California but will welcome all interested divers. All inquiries and applications should be sent to "Al's Sporting Goods Store" in Cayucos, California.

Come on up, the water will be fine on September 25th.

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Michigan . . .

#### ANN ARBOR AMPHIBIANS

By JEAN M. WHITE

Every weekend this summer, save one, has been wonderful diving weather. The month of July has rolled away all too quickly and fall is straight ahead.

In July there were lots of activities, and many people leaving on their vacation so it was hard to get all the members together. Sunday, July 3rd, Jack Lichty and myself drove up to Alpena situated on Thunder Bay, Lake Huron, to meet Jerry White and Bob McAllister who had ventured up that way the day before.

We dove on an old fishing schooner which had floundered in the shallows between two islands about a 45 minute ride from shore. The motor boats that we took out were almost seaworthy and we managed to stay afloat by bailing water all the way out and all the way back in. We had the pleasure of meeting Dick and Tom Brown, two divers who are doing a lot to promote this sport in Northern Michigan. That afternoon we helped Dick give a skin diving demonstration for the Alpena Yacht Club.

On July 10th, we went to Pickerel Lake, a fishing site and very unpopulated, because of the muck all around the edge of the lake. The visibility in the small lake is fantastic. The fishes and weeds are easily visible from the surface down to 25 feet. Lee and Dean Drake, Bob McAllister, Cliff Westerman, Mary Landes, Claude Creswell, Mick Quinn, Bob Hicks, and Jean and Jerry White attended this outing.

July 17th, Cliff Westerman, Marty Belser, Jerry White and myself went to Pentwater to dive on the Anna C. Minch. As it turned out, we found the pole buoy and scoured the area for an hour and a half and were unable to locate the wreck. After talking to one of the fisher men in Pentwater we decided that the ice must of moved the buoy during the spring thaw. We went home very disappointed

The nicest outing we have had all summer was held Sunday, July 24th. The Ford Motor Company invited us and the Ford Seahorses to come to their private lake. We had a spearfishing contest be tween the two clubs, prizes, and the best food ever was served in the Walden woods dining room. The Ford Seahorse have arranged for us to go back the 27th of August, and we are going to have another spearfishing contest at that time The Ford TV and Photography experts were on hand, and seemed to enjoy our antics, too. Jerry White gave a brief talk on safety, and Mel Laginess, President of the Ford Seahorses added some pre cautionary measures that he had though of. We all owe Bill Moss a vote of thanks for promoting this outing. He is a staff artist for Ford Times and a charter member of the Ann Arbor Amphibians. This is the sort of activity that can be carried out on a larger scale with the Great Lake Skin Diving Council with a little coop eration.

Incidently, for all those clubs interested the proposed constitution for the Skin Diving Council has been rewritten and I will mimeograph and send out a copy to all clubs.

To get to the business side of our skin diving activity, Cliff Westerman has pulled up two outboard motors recently. Carl Rufus found a body for the Living ston County Police in Kent Lake: Jad Lichty, Marty Belser, Carl Rufus, and Jerry White found the body of an 18-year-old airman who had tried to swim acros Silver Lake; and Jerry White was fortunate enough to find a 16-ft. inboard motor boat at Half Moon Lake about 70-feet down, and also picked up an outboard motor at Portage this month.



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